United Nations A/57/691

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 December 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 160
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 12 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Conclusions of the Senior Level Expert Conference of the Central and East European States on Joint Actions in Border Management and Control, the Fight against International Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illegal Migration and Drug Trafficking, held in Kyiv on 1 November 2002 (see annex).

The Conference represented a continuation of the process that had commenced at the Warsaw Conference on Combating Terrorism in 2001. Delegations from the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia participated in the Conference. Representatives of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Belarus, the Kingdom of Spain, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Russian Federation, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were also present at the Conference as guests.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 160.

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchinsky**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-75648 (E) 060103

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Annex to the letter dated 12 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Conclusions of the Senior Level Expert Conference of the Central and East European States on Joint Actions in Border Management and Control, the Fight against International Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illegal Migration and Drug Trafficking

1 November 2002
Kyiv, Ukraine

The Conference of the Central and East European States,

- Taking into account the Declaration and the Action Plan adopted at the Warsaw Conference on Combating Terrorism of 6 November 2001 (the Warsaw Conference),
- Realizing the importance of strengthening the borders of the Central and East European States in the context of the enlargement of the European Union (EU), and of developing new enhanced forms of cooperation with neighbouring States which will not join the EU at this stage,
- Being resolved to deepen interaction among the Central and East European States in the management of their borders and in the joint combat against international terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration and other threats, which can be prevented provided that the borders are properly controlled,

has approved the following conclusions:

The Senior Level Expert Conference of the Central and East European States considered it necessary to:

1. **Border control and border management**

- Take relevant steps in order to create, at the new EU external borders and at other State borders, improved levels of border checks and border surveillance, and at the same time to accelerate and facilitate border crossings, including through:
  - Selection of a list of sites (checkpoints) that require additional funding in order to upgrade and strengthen border control,
  - Creation of new schemes and improvement of the existing mechanisms of traffic-flow coordination at checkpoints;
- Include in the agenda of the next conference of Heads of State of the Central and East European States on combating terrorism the issues of border management and visa policy and practice;
- Facilitate coordination of the inflow, in the framework of programmes and projects of States, international organizations and institutions, including the European Union, of financial and material resources for the development of the infrastructure of borders in the Central and East European region.

2. Customs control

- Develop and introduce a mechanism of consultations and coordination, including by setting the periodicity of its work and the level of customs services' representation of the Central and East European States, with a view to:
  - Determining organizational, legal and technical policies and procedures for bringing the existing systems of control over transit of goods in the Central and East European States up to EU requirements;
  - Organizing joint monitoring of customs control and customs clearance procedures for goods and vehicles to bring them into compliance with EU standards;
  - Introducing joint control procedures at checkpoints, in accordance with article 7, paragraph (a), of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 1982);
  - Improving procedures for customs control and customs clearance of goods at border checkpoints of the Central and East European States, pursuant to the provisions of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 1982);
  - Accelerating the process of concluding bilateral agreements among the Central and East European States on control over the transit of goods.
- Develop a mechanism of information exchange among the customs authorities of the Central and East European States in the area of customs control and customs clearance, in order to forestall possible violations in the field of foreign economic activity, and to define the legal, organizational and technological framework of such an exchange, with the possibility of diversification of the forms of the exchange, depending on its level.

  In this context, the issue of introducing joint regional electronic information databases of customs authorities of the Central and East European States should be considered at an expert level.

3. Combat against international terrorism and organized crime

- Create improved conditions for information exchange between special services and law-enforcement agencies of the Central and East European States on organizations and persons involved in terrorist or extremist funding activities;
- Consider applying a unified approach to the issues of extradition and prosecution of persons suspected of terrorist activities;
- Consider elaborating a joint strategy of the Central and East European States on suppression of terrorism for review at the next conference of Heads of State of the Central and East European States.

4. Combat against illegal migration and traffic in persons

- Initiate common efforts to fight illegal migration between the Central and East European States and the States of origin of illegal migrants to the countries of the region, support the process of drafting and signing agreements on

readmission of apprehended illegal migrants within the Central and East European States and between the Central and East European States and the States of origin of illegal migrants and take appropriate steps to enhance implementation of existing agreements;

- Encourage experience-sharing in the area of combating illegal migration, including on the question of distribution of responsibilities among competent national authorities of the Central and East European States in this field, and develop an effective mechanism of deportation of illegal migrants to the places of their permanent residence or countries of origin;

- Maintain an operative information exchange on illegal migration, including the development of an early warning system, and consider introducing a practice of professional experience-sharing, at both bilateral and multilateral levels, aimed at mastering and perfecting skills in fighting illegal migration;

- Analyse the results of utilization of special financial and material/technical assistance to prevent and effectively fight illegal migration, and dedicate additional assistance, including assistance from the EU programmes and projects for the East European States, to these purposes.

5. Combat against drug trafficking

- Encourage regular exchange of investigative, reference, forensic and other related information, including information on legal and natural persons and criminal organizations engaged in illicit activities related to narcotic drugs and precursors and on businesses and banking entities involved in money-laundering, among relevant law-enforcement agencies of the Central and East European States dealing with drug trafficking;

- Establish a mechanism for coordination of measures (operations) to block off the channels for illicit circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, including the use of controlled deliveries;

- Consider convening an international meeting of experts from the Central and East European States, under the auspices of the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board, with the participation of experts from the Asian and Middle Eastern States, to discuss common approaches to the issue of countering the illicit circulation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

- Encourage coordinated measures to implement, at the national level, the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime by the Central and East European States parties to the Convention by utilizing technical and expert assistance, including from the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board;

- Consider instituting a single mechanism for the return of proceeds of illicit drug trafficking illegally transferred abroad, as well as the freezing and seizure of bank accounts, when such proceeds were transferred to accounts in other States;

- Promote cooperation in combating the laundering of proceeds derived from illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and coordinate cooperation with Europol in exchanging operative and analytical information and in organizing joint operative and investigative activities;

6. Prepare a report on the implementation of the Warsaw Conference Action Plan

The Conference participants expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of Ukraine for its efforts in organizing this forum.